

# Kenya

## AT A GLANCE

### Main Objectives and Activities

Provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees while exploring durable solutions; ensure an acceptable standard of living; facilitate the lasting return of Somali refugees to relatively safe areas in Somalia, and assist other refugees who wish to repatriate to their country of origin; increasingly explore the option of resettlement to third countries as a durable solution.

### Impact

- UNHCR provided protection against rights violations to refugees and asylum-seekers. To strengthen security in and around camps, vehicles and equipment such as bullet-proof vests were provided to police in Kakuma and Dadaab. The number of police officers increased by over 15 per cent, to nearly 220 in both camps.
- Refugees, aid workers, local officials and UNHCR staff were trained to ensure that gender activities were included in all aspects of the operation. In a concerted effort to eradicate violence against women, women's support groups were set up to report incidents, raise awareness in the communities and ensure a better response from law enforcement agencies. As a result, 76 perpetrators were prosecuted and sentenced in 2000.
- A re-registration exercise that included the fingerprinting and photographing of refugees was completed in April 2000.
- The Eligibility Centre for refugee status determination registered 8,568 new asylum claims, of which 5,654 were adjudicated.
- UNHCR secured resettlement opportunities for 9,383 refugees, including nearly 5,000 Sudanese boys.
- A total of 1,202 refugees received assistance to repatriate, including 824 Somalis, 171 Sudanese, 158 Ugandans, 23 Ethiopians, 16 Rwandans, seven Liberians, two Burundians and one Eritrean.



Main Refugee Origin/Type of Population	Persons of Concern			
	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Somalia (Refugees)	137,400	137,200	49	54
Sudan (Refugees)	55,600	55,400	37	52
Ethiopia (Asylum-seekers)	5,800	-	-	-
Uganda (Refugees)	5,800	370	42	45
Kenya (Returnees)	4,900	4,900	-	-
Ethiopia (Refugees)	4,100	4,000	35	36
Rwanda (Refugees)	2,700	180	34	31
Eritrea (Asylum-seekers)	850	-	-	-
Sudan (Asylum-seekers)	780	-	-	-
Rwanda (Asylum-seekers)	580	-	-	-

Income and Expenditure (USD)				
Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds				
Revised Budget	Income from Contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other Funds Available <sup>2</sup>	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
24,838,244	8,878,019	14,233,526	23,111,545	22,407,669

<sup>1</sup>Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

<sup>2</sup>Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

- A total of 4,852 Kenyan refugees were assisted to repatriate from Ethiopia.



## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Context

UNHCR's activities commenced in Kenya in the 1960s, when a small number of urban refugees were protected and assisted in Nairobi. In 1991, the profile and size of the refugee population in Kenya changed drastically with the arrival of large numbers of refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia and southern Sudan. Ongoing conflicts in Somalia and Sudan have since precluded organised repatriation. Despite the installation in 2000 of a National Transition Government in Somalia, the security situation remains tense and Somali refugees originating from Lower and Middle Juba, Kismayo and Gedo regions are unlikely to return in the foreseeable future. Conflict and political instability in Sudan not only prevented repatriation, but generated a further influx of Sudanese into Kenya. In addition, Eritreans residing in Ethiopia fled to Kenya following the outbreak of the country's war with Eritrea.

Most refugees in Kenya are confined to the Dadaab and Kakuma camp complexes, which are located in semi-arid areas in northern and eastern Kenya, where available natural resources are barely sufficient to sustain the local population. Consequently, in the absence of any prospect of local integration, and given the limited capacity for resettlement,

UNHCR's programmes continued to focus on the provision of international protection and humanitarian assistance.

### Constraints

Tensions mounted between local Turkana people and the Sudanese along the Sudan-Kenya border, as well as between the Kenya-Somali sub-clans in the Dadaab area. In response to the deteriorating security in and around the camps, Kenyan police were provided with limited material support, and firewood was distributed to reduce the exposure of refugee women and girls to bandit attacks. As a result of insecurity in and around the camps and the restrictions imposed on local integration of refugees, the planned activities in the sectors of livestock and crop production could not be implemented. The overall food situation was precarious due to drought, and supply problems were mitigated only marginally

by the limited quantities of food available in the local markets. Owing to funding constraints, UNHCR was unable to regularly provide complementary food and non-food items. Refugees repeatedly expressed their discontent in demonstrations, which further destabilised the area. Drought also exacerbated country-wide socio-economic problems in Kenya, leading to increased inter-clan and tribal fighting in the Rift Valley, and in the northeastern and eastern provinces. A large number of Kenyans and their livestock relocated to the vicinity of the refugee camps hoping to share water and food. The crime rate in Nairobi rose and some politicians openly suggested that the presence of refugees contributed to insecurity in the country. In Dadaab, the institution of an effective screening and registration system for new arrivals remained incomplete. A porous border with Somalia and ethnic similarities between refugees and locals made it difficult to differentiate between refugees and "infiltrators". Moreover, a high turnover of government officials and the inability of the National Eligibility Committee to effectively exercise its functions, created a backlog of asylum claims.

### Funding

Budget reductions severely hampered implementation in all sectors. The distribution of shelter materials was

restricted, and available funds covered only part of the additional requirements for education, vocational training and income generation activities. A number of initiatives to improve security of refugees and staff could not be implemented.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

### Protection and Solutions

Kenya is party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, as well as the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Although a final draft for national refugee legislation was shared with the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1999, the refugee bill has yet to be enacted. UNHCR therefore continued to lobby with all relevant parties in order to hasten its adoption. Formal and on-the-job training in international law and protection was conducted in Dadaab and Kakuma, with a special emphasis on the needs of refugee women, children and adolescents. For the specific purpose of training police and other law enforcement officers, legal consultants were hired under the auspices of the Kenya chapter of the Federation of Women Lawyers. The training addressed, in particular, the issue of sexual and gender-based violence, and training materials prepared by the consultants facilitated dissemination of the message. UNHCR took further measures to combat sexual violence, such as the distribution of firewood (to reduce the risks run by women collecting it in open country) and the planting of 21 km of bushes to function as live fences around the Dadaab camps. The judiciary received material and logistical assistance, and the reporting and documentation of incidents was improved, with the result that seven people were arrested (leading to three convictions). Five mobile court sessions conducted in Dadaab presided over a total of 60 cases. In Kakuma, the mobile court successfully tried and sentenced 16 cases related to sexual offences. Survivors of torture and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment, including rape and sexual violence, were counselled and given medical attention.

This focus on women was aimed at improving gender relations and, in the long-term, creating equality between men and women through the eradication of cultural stereotypes. Some 340 women and their communities benefited from 21 workshops addressing questions of early/forced marriage, wife inheritance (i.e. when a man dies, his widow, children and property fall to his brothers), ghost marriage (i.e. when a man dies a bachelor, his brothers marry a girl on his behalf and name the children after the deceased so that his lineage

will continue), female genital mutilation and domestic violence. Additional topics covered included basic communication and leadership skills, lobbying, advocacy for the protection of women, basic counselling skills, and reproductive health education. Two female lawyers were hired to provide legal assistance to women and educate the refugee community on relevant Kenyan laws on violence against women. Some 250 women were involved in income-generating activities to give them economic stability within their community, thereby reducing their economic dependence on men. Furthermore, 574 women received adult education including English language classes aimed at raising their literacy level and amending their communication skills, which had previously hindered their participation in decision-making fora. As a consequence, eight women assumed positions of political leadership, six were appointed to legal advisory committees, and 250 took up non-political leadership posts in Kakuma.

In March, the Ceased Circumstances Cessation Clause of the 1951 Convention was applied to pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees and UNHCR offered to assist their voluntary repatriation, but no member of that group in Kenya came forward. The Government undertook to consider applications for a change of status, on a case-by-case basis. By the end of the year, several applications had been received; they are being reviewed by the Immigration Department.

### Activities and Assistance

*Community Services:* A special emphasis was placed on assistance and counselling for victims of sexual and domestic violence, women in forced marriages and unaccompanied minors. Funds from a private donor were used to implement the reproductive health education programme. In Kakuma 887 disabled adults and 1,095 disabled children received special assistance. Some 1,000 disabled children were integrated into schools, while 220 disabled adults received vocational training and 1,130 elderly persons were engaged in income-generating activities such as the production of tobacco pipes, fishing nets and sandals. Some 140 community workers were trained in home-based care, and conducted a total of 2,245 home visits to disabled people (including children) and to the elderly. Some 45 teachers were trained in teaching methods for special needs and taught 60 disabled pupils on a one-to-one basis. In Dadaab, special assistance was given to 2,338 disabled people with the involvement of families and the community at large. The beneficiaries were blind or deaf, or had some form of physical disability, like epilepsy, impaired speech, or a learning disability. They were offered skills training and an introduction to income-generating activities such as carpentry, leather-



work, shoe making, bee or poultry keeping, basket and mat weaving, typing, welding, soap-making and small business management. UNHCR also supported urban refugees with counselling and foster care arrangements. Their financial (especially medical and transportation) needs were met in full or in part whenever possible. Counselling of some 75 asylum-seekers and 150 recognised refugees per month targeted women at risk, unaccompanied minors and victims of sexual violence. In line with UNHCR's policy priorities for women and children, vulnerable women and girls in Kakuma were provided with 36,172 sanitary items, 11,950 pieces of undergarments and towels, and 20,420 pieces of soap that they themselves produced, after undergoing the relevant training. In Dadaab, the focus was on empowering women through self-reliance activities and greater integration in the community, in addition to material and psychological support. To offset cultural obstacles to women's participation, various women's networks were established to encourage mutual support among women and strengthen their coping mechanisms. Victims of violence and rape could avail themselves of group or individual counselling sessions provided by anti-rape and women's committees, which were formed in the communities and adequately trained. These committees also helped with the reintegration of victims into the community. For refugee children, the objective was to protect them against violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination while creating conditions conducive to healthy physical and social development. All identified orphans and unaccompanied minors in Kakuma and Dadaab were put into foster care and thus integrated into the community, while efforts were made to trace family members. Measures were taken to keep siblings together. Some foster families received training to help particularly vulnerable children. Traumatized children were counselled individually and in groups. Furthermore, clothes and sports equipment were provided and recreational activities organised, to prevent boredom and idleness. An Action for the Rights of the Children (ARC) Committee was formed in the camp aiming to establish a community-based monitoring system for all children. Committee members were familiarised with the Convention for the Rights of the Child and trained in how to identify children with problems.

**Domestic Needs/Household Support:** Very limited quantities of non-food items (including plastic sheeting and cooking utensils) were distributed to the most vulnerable. Funds were not sufficient for wider distribution or for the replacement of worn out items.

**Education:** In 2000, considerable progress was made, with attendance of pre-schools, primary, secondary and

special education schools in Dadaab rising to 27,805 (11,297 girls, 16,508 boys) up from 24,030 in 1999. Two in-service training sessions were organised for 351 refugee teachers to improve their knowledge and teaching skills. To encourage the enrolment of girls, incentives such as soap, uniforms and bags were given out. Furthermore, UNHCR supplied 385 desks to an education scheme for girls who had dropped out of school. In Kakuma, 700 desks, 30 benches, 15 tables, 12 cupboards and 75 laboratory stools were made available to improve learning conditions for the 28,151 pupils attending camp schools. A total of 2,105 pupils registered for the national examinations at the primary level and 275 at the secondary level. Adult literacy classes were attended by 2,612 people. UNHCR helped to fund a number of NGOs, religious bodies, private institutions and individuals working to provide refugees in urban centres with access to educational and vocational training opportunities. Scholarship schemes assisted 280 refugee students, while UNHCR co-sponsored another 86 primary and 86 secondary school pupils. Some 120 refugees took part in vocational training, and 41 students received funding to attend local and international universities. Within this scheme, 30 students were sent abroad.

**Food:** Supply problems caused irregular distribution of food, and the food basket was at times reduced to 1,024 kcal per person per day (the standard energy intake being 2,100 kcal). The procurement and distribution of complementary food (onions, carrots, potatoes) for the general refugee population was suspended in April 2000.

**Forestry:** UNHCR integrated environmental considerations into all programme activities in order to mitigate environmental degradation in both Dadaab and Kakuma. Environmental protection principles, based on UNHCR's guidelines, were applied to all relevant sectors, including water, sanitation, shelter, domestic energy, health and education. Kitchen gardening was part of an integrated approach that ensured the participation of women as key players. Over 220 women received specific training, and by the end of the year, 1,821 households were growing vegetables in kitchen gardens. This project will be expanded (targeting more women and young people) in view of the potential benefits, such as food security, income generation and utilisation of wastewater (with a consequent reduction of mosquito breeding areas). Efforts to promote the use of energy-saving devices continued, resulting in 2,609 improved cooking stoves being produced and distributed to women. The stoves, whose durability

and portability made them popular, could be obtained in exchange for environmental labour. Alternatively, refugees could learn how to construct cheap but energy-efficient mud stoves. Environmental working groups encouraged participatory natural resource management in and around the camps. With the active involvement of refugees and local women, degraded land in the camps was rehabilitated. Reforestation activities included the maintenance of seven project nurseries as well as 15 private tree nurseries. Nearly 250,000 tree seedlings were distributed for planting in refugee and staff compounds, and extension services offered to ensure a high survival rate of plants. About 40 per cent of tree nursery and advisory staff were women. The establishment and maintenance of 68 hectares of new green-belt land in both Kakuma (ten hectares) and Dadaab (58 hectares) was accomplished with the participation of 5,542 refugee women.

**Health/Nutrition:** Nutritional surveys found an increase in malnutrition in both camps, as a consequence of the food supply problems. Corrective measures were taken, which, together with a slight increase in food supplies in the second half of the year, led to improvement in the nutritional status. Some 45 community health and nutrition staff were trained in screening methods to detect early signs of malnutrition.

**Income Generation:** For the purpose of capacity-building and economic empowerment, refugees



engaged in the production and sale of 1,191 boxes of soap, 1,000 mosquito nets, 100 girls' uniforms, 400 boys' uniforms, 400 dresses, 200 shirts, 150 security uniforms, 36,172 sanitary items and 11,950 undergarments. Refugees instructed in poultry-keeping generated an income of USD 3,500 from the sale of eggs. Training in a variety of skills enabled 420 women to produce items for their daily use at home. As a result, they became more self-sufficient and less exposed to danger and abuse from men. Activities included food making and sales, the production of energy-saving devices, tie-dye fabric making, weaving, crocheting and embroidery, hair and beauty services, footwear, carpentry, woodcarving and other handicrafts. Members of 43 women groups, comprising 870 vulnerable women and victims of sexual violence, used income generation loans in order to become more self-reliant. The profits they generated enabled them to purchase firewood and avoid the hazards of wood collection in the bush. In urban areas, a total of 143 refugees were self-employed in the informal sector working as tailors, caterers, mechanics and hairdressers. Another 150 refugees were assisted with tools to set up small businesses.

**Legal Assistance:** Legal aid offices, legal representation, peer counselling networks and anti-rape committees for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were established to meet the special needs of refugees.

**Operational Support (to Agencies):** Coverage of implementing partners' administrative expenses, including staff salaries, was reduced by 20 per cent as a result of funding shortages. Agencies thus had to find other sources of funding to maintain staffing levels. The resulting strain in relations with partners was aggravated by the fact that cuts were effected late in the year.

**Sanitation:** The recommended ratio of one latrine for 15 people was achieved at only two sites (both in Dadaab). The use of the *birkaroons* (sandbag latrines) increased in Dadaab with a total of 1,200 new facilities constructed. Environmentally friendly substances were vigorously promoted for vector and pest control, while education in general hygiene targeted the entire population living in and around the camps. Moreover, refuse recycling was successfully promoted in Dadaab, where the sale of polymats made from waste plastics generated income for refugees. Thanks to these measures, general camp cleanliness remained satisfactory.

**Shelter/Other Infrastructure:** After a card revalidation exercise allowed for the downward revision of population figures from 90,000 to 63,573, the development of a new camp site 20 km away from the current Kakuma

site was suspended. Meanwhile, 732 improved housing units with iron roofing and mud-brick walls were constructed in Kakuma, and 197 vulnerable individuals were assisted with shelter materials. However, due to funding constraints, there was no general distribution of shelter materials to all refugees. Existing camp infrastructure was maintained throughout the year. Some Dadaab schools damaged by the harsh climate were restored, and five new classrooms and latrines were constructed for schools in Kakuma. Nevertheless, the average class size remained 70 (the target being 40). Over 15 km of access roads to Kakuma were graded and gravelled and police stations and outposts in both camps were maintained to improve working conditions. In Lokichokio, transit centre facilities were upgraded to include an office block and two additional accommodation sheds and ablution blocks.

**Transport/Logistics:** UNHCR procured the fuel required for water pumps, generators and vehicles.

**Water:** Ongoing maintenance of existing supply systems ensured safe drinking water for refugees at the rate of 15-20 litres per person per day. The 20 boreholes servicing each camp were maintained, and two replacement boreholes were drilled and developed, one each for Kakuma and Dadaab. In Kakuma, refugees benefited from an overall improvement of the water distribution system. In addition to one borehole drilled and equipped at Nadapal (20 km from Lodwar), UNHCR provided funding to sustain 30 more boreholes for local communities in areas surrounding the camps. In Garissa and Wajir, maintenance units received allowances as well as some logistical support.

## ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Management

UNHCR's country office in Nairobi was supported by two offices in Dadaab and Kakuma. As the latter are located in remote and insecure areas, UNHCR had to engage air charter services to provide secure and time-saving transport for staff and implementing partners. A cost recovery scheme for this service was introduced late in the year. The offices in Kenya were administered by 34 international (including three JPOs and six UNVs) and 88 national staff, as well as three officers seconded by the Government and two consultants. In addition, project staff were recruited as and when required. The prevailing security situation necessitated armed escorts for any movement of staff outside the office premises.

### Working with Others

UNHCR worked in close co-operation with 11 NGOs, two UN agencies, one international organisation and the Government. Regular co-ordination, consultative and briefing meetings were held and issues of common or bilateral interest were discussed at the camp level and in Nairobi. A review of the implementation capacities of some partners enabled UNHCR to take corrective steps and re-distribute certain activities to enhance programme delivery.

## OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set for 2000 proved to have been based on a sound appraisal of the refugee situation and an accurate calculation of resource requirements. While budget reductions clearly affected implementation, they did not lead to a significant re-orientation of objectives. There was an impressive increase in participation by refugees, especially women, in most activities of the assistance programme and in community leadership.

Lacking opportunities for repatriation and local integration, refugees in Kenya will continue to depend on UNHCR's assistance. A phase-out is therefore not envisaged. Meanwhile, education, vocational training and economic empowerment remain the key to maximum self-sufficiency, both in exile and upon (eventual) return to countries of origin.

### Offices

**Nairobi**  
Dadaab  
Kakuma

### Partners

#### Government Agencies

National Refugee Secretariat (Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports)

#### NGOs

African Refugee Training and Employment Services  
African Rehabilitation and Educational Programme  
CARE International (Kenya)  
GOAL Kenya  
Handicap International (formerly Action Nord-Sud)  
International Rescue Committee  
Lutheran World Federation  
*Médecins Sans Frontières* (Belgium)  
National Council of Churches of Kenya  
World Vision Kenya

#### Other

*Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*  
International Organisation for Migration  
United Nation Children's Fund  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects		Prior Years' Projects	
	AB/TF	notes		notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,330,267		177,307	
Community Services	196,602		115,059	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	716,213		530,276	
Education	537,012		283,315	
Food	77,011		91,228	
Forestry	21,954		249,944	
Health / Nutrition	880,232		682,980	
Income Generation	14,523		1,329	
Legal Assistance	320,222		127,878	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,476,248		816,864	
Sanitation	54,706		38,649	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	215,229		189,757	
Transport / Logistics	942,748		563,857	
Water	301,472		1,407,907	
Transit Accounts	1,479		0	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	5,954,104		(3,771,952)	
<b>Sub-total Operational</b>	<b>14,040,022</b>		<b>1,504,398</b>	
Programme Support	6,839,968		284,750	
<b>Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries</b>	<b>20,879,990</b>	(3)	<b>1,789,148</b>	(6)
Unliquidated Obligations	1,527,679	(3)	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,407,669</b>	(1) (3)	<b>1,789,148</b>	

#### Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	9,101,666		793,402	
Reporting Received	3,147,562		4,565,354	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>5,954,104</b>		<b>(3,771,952)</b>	
Outstanding 1 January	0		6,348,372	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		144,756	
Currency Adjustment	0		(5,982)	
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>	<b>5,954,104</b>		<b>2,425,682</b>	

#### Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1 January	0		2,587,667	(6)
New Obligations	22,407,669	(1)	0	
Disbursements	20,879,990	(3)	1,789,148	(6)
Cancellations	0		796,522	(6)
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>	<b>1,527,679</b>	(3)	<b>1,997</b>	(6)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(6) Schedule 6